



# Department of Economics Newsletter

June 2017

## GENERAL DEPARTMENT NEWS

It has been another busy year for the Economics Department at Johns Hopkins, with several conferences, events, and research and teaching activity. But the academic year ended on a sad note, with the loss of Emeritus Professor **Carl Christ**, a giant in the field of macroeconomics and econometrics, who served and influenced several generations of undergraduates and graduate students as well as his colleagues. He was also dedicated to Johns Hopkins as a whole, serving in several university capacities and remaining active even after his retirement. A number of graduate alumni gave us their memories of Professor Christ, which are posted on a webpage, and which can be added to, at <http://econ.jhu.edu/in-memoriam-carl-christ-1923-2017/?ccAC=0>. A memorial service on campus will take place this Fall at a date and location to be announced.



In last year's Newsletter, I noted the Department's move to the Wyman Park

Building. More improvements in the space have taken place this year, with a new seminar room, graduate student lounge, and a new classroom. More innovations are slated for this summer and the next academic year.



The new seminar room was also named the Simon Kuznets Seminar Room this year, after the distinguished Nobel Laureate who taught at Johns Hopkins from 1954 to 1960 and who worked on his theories of economic growth during that period. A handsome plaque with his name and photo has been placed in the seminar room.



The Department sponsored or cosponsored three conferences this year. The first was the 2016 NSF/NBER/CEME Mathematical Economics Conference held on the Hopkins campus on October 29 and 30, 2016, and organized by Professors **Chen, Karni, Khan,** and **Quah** of the Economics Department.

Bringing together theorists from the U.S. and abroad, the conference program featured 14 presentations on a wide variety of topics in economic theory. Nobel Laureate Eric Maskin gave a talk on elections and strategic voting, a topic which he and fellow Laureate Amartya Sen have also published op-eds on in the New York Times.

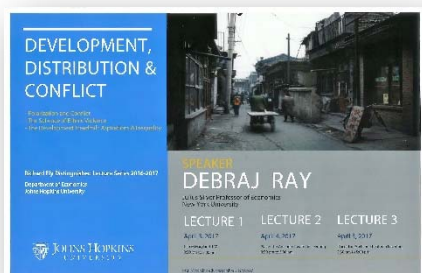
The 2017 Social Networks and Information Conference, cosponsored with the Carey Business School and coorganized by Professor **Ying Chen** of the Economics Department, took place at the Carey School on April 7-8, 2017. Focusing on the economics of social networks, information, and mechanism, design, the conference featured two distinguished keynote speakers, Matthew Jackson of Stanford and Dirk Bergemann of Yale. The other speakers, from the U.S. and abroad, discussed their recent research on the topics of the conference.

The Hopkins Health, Labor, Education and Development Economics Conference, cosponsored with the Carey School of Business and the School of Public Health, and coorganized by Professor **Nicholas Papageorge** of the Economics Department, took place at the Carey School on May 19, 2017. After introductory remarks from the university Provost, an interdisciplinary set of speakers spoke about their research on a wide range of issues in both developing and developed countries, followed by lively discussion from the audience of faculty and graduate students.

The Department was well represented at the AEA Meetings in January, 2017 in Chicago. Among the faculty, **Jorge Balat, Chris Carroll, Yingyao Hu, Olivier Jeanne, Anton Korinek, Nicholas Papageorge,** and **Jonathan Wright** were on the program. The traditional cocktail party and alumni

reception also drew more than 50 current and former graduate students and faculty, with those attending having the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. We will be having another in January, 2018 in the City of Brotherly Love and Rocky, Philadelphia. Mark it on your calendars.

Our annual Richard T. Ely Lecture this year was given by **Debraj Ray** (photo and poster below) from New York University, who gave three stimulating lectures on April 3-5 on "Development, Distribution, and Conflict." For more details, see <http://econ.jhu.edu/research/ely-lectures/richard-ely-distinguished-lecture-series-2016-2017/>



We look forward to the 2017-2018 Ely Lectures as well, which will be delivered by Professor Xavier Gabaix of Harvard University this October.

To keep up with developments in the Department as they happen, keep track on the department website, <http://www.econ.jhu.edu/>.

## FACULTY NEWS

**Jorge Balat** continues his work on the identification and estimation of auction models and production function models. He

participated and presented work in several conferences this year both in the US and in Colombia, including a presentation at the annual DC IO day this past April.

**Larry Ball** continued to receive media coverage for his paper on the 2008 Lehman Brothers bankruptcy, including in the New York Times. He also coauthored this year's Geneva Report on the World Economy. He visited the National Bank of Ukraine for a month in May, 2017.

**Chris Carroll** discussed the paper '[When Inequality Matters for Macro and Macro Matters for Inequality](#)' at the [NBER Macro Annual](#) conference in Cambridge, and argued that the paper's breakthroughs in finding ways to speed up the solution speed for models with heterogeneous agents by literally a factor of thousand, will be hugely important because they will allow macroeconomists to incorporate serious heterogeneity in their benchmark, workhorse models, supplanting the Representative Agent framework that failed in many ways during the Great Recession.

**Ying Chen** gave seminar presentations at Princeton and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and had two papers accepted, one at the Journal of Economic Theory and the other at AEJ-Micro.

**Greg Duffee**, the Carl Christ Professor of Economics, continues his research on the macroeconomic determinants of unexpected changes in Treasury yields and has a new paper on the subject which is forthcoming. He was a Visiting Professor at Princeton in Fall 2016, has given several seminars this year, and continues to serve on the Federal Reserve System's Model Validation Council.

**Jon Faust**, the Louis J. Maccini Professor of Economics, has a number of projects underway relating to the conduct of monetary policy in the wake of the financial crisis. He has presented papers and given invited talks on this topic both in the US and abroad this year.

**Mark Gersovitz** continues his work on the problems of poor countries, including studies of medical and epidemiological problems and issues of public finance and taxation. He published a paper this year in the China Economic Review on Sectoral Asymmetries and a Social-Welfare Interpretation of Hukou.

**Yingyao Hu** has several papers forthcoming including a review paper on measurement error models forthcoming in a special issue of

the Journal of Econometrics. He was a session organizer for the June 2017 meetings of the Econometric Society at Wuhan University and he serves on the editorial boards of several journals.

**Olivier Jeanne** and Anton Korinek spent a week at the University of Tokyo last summer and gave an invited lecture on "Frontiers in Macroprudential Policy and International Capital Flows". Olivier also co-organized the NBER Summer Institute International Finance and Macroeconomics (IFM) workshop, which took place in Cambridge MA, July 11-15 2016. Fifteen papers were presented and there were more than 150 registered participants.

**Edi Karni**, the Scott and Barbara Black Professor of Economics, published three papers this year on stochastic choice under uncertainty, expected utility theory for state-dependent preferences, and a theory of decision-making in the face of ignorance. He gave several talks and presentations.

**Ali Khan**, the Abram Hutzler Professor of Political Economy, continues his work in mathematical economics using the categories of abstract economic theory to understand and give meaning to technical words in the register of economic theory and mathematical economics as well as work on the categories of linguistic philosophy. He has published several papers this year and has others forthcoming.

**Anton Korinek** was on leave in Fall 2016 in Europe. His main base was Basel where he conducted research on the financial cycle at the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) while enjoying the European cuisine. Back at Hopkins in the Spring semester of 2017, he taught undergraduate and graduate macroeconomics courses. He also published a REStud paper on "Pecuniary Externalities in Economies with Financial Frictions" (joint with Eduardo Davila, NYU). There will be a little less time for research in Summer, 2017 because his wife Sharon is expecting their second child, Anton Korinek VI., in June.

**Elena Krasnokutskaya** continues her work on auctions. She published a paper in the Rand Journal with Przemek Jesiorski on dynamic procurement auctions with subcontracting and has other papers forthcoming.

**Lou Maccini**, Professor Emeritus, lives in Ann Arbor with his wife Carol to be close to his grandchildren and has now been retired for four years. Lou is still active in research and has completed a paper on the effects of changes in real interest rates on the

automobile market as well as being actively engaged on a research project on time to build and investment in plant and equipment. He regularly attends seminars in the Economics Department at the University of Michigan.

**Robert Moffitt**, the Krieger-Eisenhower Professor of Economics, published a paper in Spring 2017 with graduate alumnus Gizem Kosar on work incentives in U.S. welfare programs. He also has research underway with graduate alumnus Gwyn Pauley on the impact of the Medicaid program on poverty and labor supply. He served on two committees of the National Academies this year and chaired a committee to evaluate the Social Security Administration's Office of the Actuary model for projecting labor force participation rates in the U.S.

**Barbara Morgan** codirects the Johns Hopkins Baltimore Policy Fellows Program, placing students in research and policy internships in Baltimore and Washington D.C. Graduates of the Program have gone on to secure excellent positions at institutions such as Mathematica, the Urban Institute and the Council of Economic Advisers, among others. She also continues to teach the interdisciplinary Social Policy and Inequality course with faculty from Sociology and Political Science. Her public service outreach has included presentations at local economics consulting firms and podcasts for the Baltimore Sun.

**Nick Papageorge** continues his research on medical innovation, risky behavior, human capital, and education. He published a paper on risky behavior in the Review of Economic Studies and a paper on how black public school students benefit from having black teachers which received significant media attention (see <http://econ.jhu.edu/2017/04/06/nicholas-papageorges-work-on-education-and-race-quoted-in-the-media/>). At the end of this academic year, he was named the Broadus Mitchell Assistant Professor and was honored at a public ceremony on June 2.

**John Quah** continues his work on monotone comparative statics and revealed preference analysis. He published a paper on this topic in the American Economic Review this year and has several other working papers on this and related topics. This year he was named a Fellow of the Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory and he serves on the editorial boards of several journals.

**Yuya Sasaki** had four papers published in econometrics journals in the 2016-2017

academic year. He has given several other seminars and conference presentations in the U.S. and internationally and one keynote address at the Institute of Economics at Academia Sinica (IEAS) Econometrics Workshop on Theories and Applications.

**Richard Spady** gave a seminar 'Spline-Spline Methods for the 'Nonparametric' Estimation of Conditional Distribution Functions' at the Statistical Research Laboratory, University of Geneva and at the Tinbergen Seminar last October. He gave an informal presentation on the same topic at Oxford the same month.

**Yuya Takahashi** continues his research on estimation of dynamic games and bargaining models. He gave seminars at the University of Washington in Seattle and Yale university this year. He married Diana Man in September 2016.

**Jonathan Wright** continues his work on seasonal adjustment as well as working on other projects. He published a paper with Kei Hirano in Econometrica on forecasting with model uncertainty and has research underway on the analysis of term structure models and other topics. He participated in several conferences this year and serves in editorial capacities in two journals.

Finally, we are sad to have to say goodbye to **Jorge Balat** and **Yuya Sasaki**, who are leaving to take posts at other universities. I wish them and their families well in their new locations.

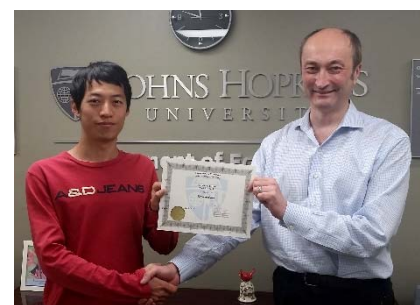
### GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

The Department welcomed 8 incoming first-year students in September with a party which faculty and other graduate students attended. A photo gallery from the party is available at <http://econ.jhu.edu/2016/10/17/new-doctoral-students-welcome-party-3/> and one photo is included here:



As noted in previous newsletters, the Department has several funded awards to honor some of our most accomplished graduate students. The Eugenio and Patricia Castillo Award is given to the student or students who displayed the best performance in their first two years in the graduate program. The 2016-2017 recipients are **Yen-Lin Chiu** and **Derin Aksit**.

*Below: Photo of Yen-Lin Chiu with Professor Wright.*



*Below: Photo of Derin Aksit with Professor Wright.*

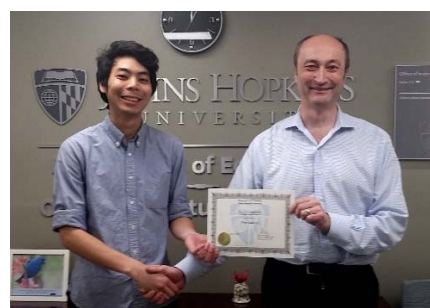


The Bruce Hamilton Research Seminar Award is given to the advanced graduate student who has demonstrated the best performance in one of the department's research workshops. Again funded by Eugenio and Patricia Castillo, it is named in honor of Professor Emeritus Bruce Hamilton who was well-known for his insightful and clever comments at seminars. This Spring's award went to **Edmund Crawley** for his remarks, comments, and questions at our workshops.



Two other awards were also given this year. **Daniel Garcia Molina** received the Carl Christ award, given to an outstanding student at the dissertation level in the program, and **Ding Xuan Ng** received the Guggenheimer

Award, given to a student who has exhibited exceptional performance in his or her Ph.D. research.



Above: Photos of Daniel Garcia Molina and Ding Xuan Ng with Professor Wright.

The Professor Joel Dean Undergraduate Teaching Award was established in 2009 to recognize graduate students who exhibited extraordinary performance in teaching Hopkins undergraduates. This award was creatively conceived by Professor Dean's son Joel and his wife Monia. Professor Dean received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago in 1936 and was a pioneer in applying economics to business decision-making. The 2016-2017 recipients are **Liuchun Deng, Kevin Yuan, and Edmund Crawley**.



Hearty congratulations to all these graduate students, who exemplify the best of the Johns Hopkins graduate program.

Nine students successfully defended their dissertations in oral examinations since our last Newsletter. They are **Liuchun Deng, Yajing Jiang, Jong Jae Lee, Sang Ah Lee, Yiyang Li, Mikhail Smirnov, Metin Uyanik,**

**Jiaxiong Yao, and Alexandria Zhang**. A few pictures of the students and their examining committees are shown below.

Below: Photos of Committees for Mikhail Smirnov, Jiaxiong Yao, and Alexandria Zhang.



This is visual proof that it is possible to successfully complete a dissertation.

The Department had nine students on the job market this year, including **Alanna Bjorklund-Young, Liuchun Deng, Emmanuel Garcia-Morales, Jong Jae Lee, Dan Li, Yunting Liu, Sohini Mahapatra, Victor Ronda, and Sezer Yasar**. They have accepted positions throughout the country and around the world – at, respectively, the Johns Hopkins School of Education, the Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH) joint with University of Jena, the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Wuhan University, Xiamen University, Peking University, the Brattle Group, the University of Aarhus and University of Chicago, and TED University. We wish them the best in their future careers.

Many of our other graduate students had notable activities this academic year. **Yi Xin** was one of a small number of Ph.D. students

selected to attend the Western Economic Association International's 2017 Graduate Student Dissertation Workshop, which she will attend in late June. **Harold Chiang** presented joint work with Professor Yuya Sasaki at the Asian Meeting of Econometric Society 2016 in Kyoto, Japan and NY Camp Econometrics XI. Harold also married Krystal Bliss. **Edmund Crawley** and his wife had a baby girl, born on Feb 22nd 2017. **Hanchen Jiang** presented his work in two conferences this spring, the Chinese Economist Society North America Conference in March and APPAM DC Regional Student Conference in April. Hanchen also got married in January to Danjing Shen, a Masters student at JHU SAIS. **Chang Ma** worked as a summer intern at the IMF and also attended the Macro Financial Modeling Summer Camp organized by Becker Friedman Institute at Boston in June 2016.

Graduate students **Mikhail Smirnov, Boqun Wang, Jiaxiong Yao and Alexandria Zhang** returned to campus for the Ph.D. hooding ceremony on May 23 and were duly hooded by Professors Carroll and Jeanne.

Also worth noting is the graduate students won the JHU Intramural kickball championship for the second year in a row as well as the Intramural Basketball Championship. Way to go!

Several students attended the January 2017 meetings of the AEA in Chicago and came to the Departmental Reception.

#### ALUMNI NEWS

**Alan Sorkin** (1966) received all three of his degrees from the Department of Political Economy (B.A., 1963; MA, 1964 and Ph.D., 1966). His teachers were Richard Musgrave, Joseph Aschheim, Clarence Long, Mark Perlman, Carl Christ, Edwin Mills and John Owen. After leaving Hopkins, he spent two years at The Brookings Institution and five years at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health where he was promoted to Associate Professor in 1972. From 1974 to 2006 he was Professor and Chair of Economics at UMBC. Since 2006, he has been Professor Emeritus at that institution, and adjunct professor at the School of Public Health at Hopkins. His publications include twelve books and eight co-edited volumes covering a number of topics in applied economics, but the main focus is health economics.

**Ernst Baltensperger** (Ph.D., 1969) had as advisors Juerg Niehans and Bill Poole. Carl Christ, Bela Balassa and Ed Mills were among his other teachers at JHU, and he and Edi Karni were colleagues and good friends at Ohio State in the 1970s. He is now a Professor Emeritus at the University of Berne and former director of the Study Center Gerzensee of the Swiss National Bank. In the last couple of years, he has written a book (with his colleague Peter Kugler) on the history of the Swiss franc which will appear at Cambridge University Press this summer: Baltensperger, E., & Kugler, P. (2017). *Swiss Monetary History since the Early 19th Century* (Studies in Macroeconomic History). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Naoyuki Yoshino** (Ph.D., 1979) is now Dean of the Asian Development Bank Institute and serves as its Chief Executive Officer.

**Borwornsi Somboonpanya** (Ph.D., 1982) has established International Education Travel Co., Ltd. (IET) since 2005. It is the Thailand Agent for Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs such as Study Abroad, Internship/ Trainee, Work and Study and Work & Travel. It partners with Institutions, Colleges and Universities in USA, UK, Australia, Canada and Germany. Thanks to Professor Carl Christ, she holds a British Council Certificate for Agent with high distinction.

**Paul Decker** (Ph.D., 1988) is entering his 29<sup>th</sup> year at Mathematica and 11<sup>th</sup> year as its President. He lives with his wife Amy and children Lauren (12) and Max (9) in Princeton

**Mariam Khawar** (Ph.D., 1997) is ending her 20th year in the economics department at Elmira College, currently serving as Chair of the Business and Economics Division. The last few years she has been working on a book that just came out this month [The Geography of Underdevelopment: Institutions and the Impact of Culture](#) published by Palgrave MacMillan. Her oldest son Jamal will be graduating from high school in a few weeks and will be attending Hobart and William Smith this fall, planning to major in .....economics. Her middle son Rohail will be starting 10th grade and her daughter Aisha will be entering 8th grade in the fall. She has set a 10-year timeline for retirement...

**Cris deRitis** (2001) continues to work at Moody's Analytics, which continues to hire welcomes applications from JHU Economics Ph.D.'s. Moody's offers a unique environment somewhere between academia

and traditional consulting or banking that might appeal to recent graduates. Cris is also pleased to announce the birth of his son, Tobia, in February.

**Delia Velculescu** (Ph.D., 2002) has been working at the IMF since graduating from JHU. She joined the European Department of the IMF in 2008, right around the start of the global crisis, and was actively involved in a number of IMF programs, starting with Iceland, and more recently as the IMF mission chief for Cyprus, and Greece (since 2015). Juggling crisis work and three kids (now aged 15, 12 and 12) has been an adventure in and of itself.

**Kadee Russ** (Ph.D., 2004) finished 18 months serving as Senior Economist for International Trade and Finance under the Council of Economic Advisers in December.

**Wendy Chi** (Ph.D., 2009) is now working at Wells Fargo in San Francisco.

**Sandeep Mazumder** (Ph.D., 2009) will be assuming the Chairmanship of the Economics Department at Wake Forest on July 1.

**Yoni Ben-Shalom** (Ph.D., 2010) wishes to announce the birth of his second son, Nadav, in September 2016.

**Kareem Ismail** (Ph.D., 2010) is still working at the IMF, working on Turkey. He had a second child in December 2016 (Maria), whose older brother, Yousef, was born in 2014.

**Julia Driessen** (Ph.D., 2011) is still at the University of Pittsburgh, currently focusing on health IT adoption and network formation in ACOs. She and Zan have two children, Lincoln (almost 3 years) and Margot (1 year). This year, she is doing a health policy fellowship in DC, embedded on the Hill and CMS.

**Francesca Di Nicola** (Ph.D., 2012) wishes to announce the birth of her daughter, Luisa, on February 13th. The father is her husband, Damiano Sandri (Ph.D., 2009), whom she married in 2014.

**Colleen Cary** (2013) is happy to report that she and her husband David welcomed Regina Carey Draine to the world on May 26. She is a delight.

**Collin Rabe** (Ph.D., 2014) and his wife, Catherine Morris, welcomed their first child, a baby girl named Colette "Coco" Rabe, on January 4th.

**Gwyn Pauley** (Ph.D., 2016) will leave her USC post-doc this Fall and will assume a position at the University of Wisconsin as Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics.

**Ellen Li** (2017) and her husband, Wei, had their son on May 28 at Walnut Creek, CA. His name is Jeremiah (Jeremy). They now live in Berkeley, CA with their daughter Grace, 5 (born in Baltimore, almost 6), and son Jeremy.

#### STAFF NEWS

Our superb office staff--**Donna Althoff**, **Jennifer Miller**, **Maggie Potts**, and IT Administrator **Nina Agopian**—continue to serve the department well. They have been exceptionally helpful with the move of the Department this year. Donna, our long-standing departmental administrator, began her 33rd year with the Department in January and tells us she now has two great grandsons, the latest being born in March. And, yes, she is still putting up with the faculty. Also, Nina received a well-deserved promotion to Senior Systems Administrator.

#### A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Finally, I would like to thank those graduate alumni of the Department who have generously made gifts to the Department in the last year. They include **Stuart and Margaret Greenbaum**, **Tatsuo Hatta**, **Julie Hudson** and **Steve Holden**, **Hiroyuki Imai**, **Bruce Jaffee**, **Richard Ludwick**, **Eshragh Motahar**, **Jacques Miniane**, **Jennifer Roff**, **Catherine Schneider**, **Robert Seidman**, **Lisa Skumatz**, **Takeshi Senda**, and **Xue Song**. These donations go directly to graduate student support for Research Assistant supplements, lunches for the graduate student reading groups, and related activities. The Department seems never to have sufficient funds to support these activities, so donations by our graduate alumni are especially useful. Please consider a gift, which you can make either by sending a payment to Ms. Donna Althoff, Department of Economics, Johns Hopkins University, 3400 N. Charles Street, Baltimore MD 21218, or by donating online at <http://krieger.jhu.edu/giving>, where you should click on "secure online giving form" and designate that your gift be given to

"Other" and then to "Economics Department."

I would also like to gratefully acknowledge a significant gift from **Nada Choueiri** which will go into the Bretton Woods Graduate Travel Fund, a fund initiated by a gift from **Alain d'Hoore** and which allows Johns Hopkins graduate alumni who work, or have worked, at the World Bank or IMF to make donations for travel for our current graduate students. Donations to this fund can be made either by sending a payment to Ms. Donna Althoff, Department of Economics, Johns Hopkins University, 3400 N. Charles Street, Baltimore MD 21218, or by donating online at <http://krieger.jhu.edu/giving>, where you should click on "secure online giving form" and designate that your gift be given to "Other" and then to "Economics Department Bretton Woods Fund."

**Larry Ball, Chair**